Title: Discussion on the Demands for Grants No. 1 to 3 under the control of Ministry of Agriculture. (Not concluded).

13.02 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET-2005-06 - DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

Ministry of Agriculture

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, yesterday we had decided in the Business Advisory Committee that today the discussion on Agriculture will start at 1 p.m. and there will be no lunch hour.

The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demand Nos. 1 to 3 relating to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Hon. Members present in the House whose Cut Motions to the Demands for Grants have been circulated may, if they desire to move their Cut Motions, send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the Cut Motions they would like to move. Only those Cut Motions will be treated as moved.

A list showing the serial numbers of Cut Motions treated as moved will be put up on the Notice Board shortly thereafter. In case any Member finds any discrepancy in the list, he may kindly bring it to the notice of the officer at the Table immediately.

Motion moved :

> "That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the order paper be granted to the President, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2006, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the first column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 3 relating to the Ministry of Agriculture."

Shri Kailash Joshi to initiate the debate.

… (*Interruptions*)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI : Sir, I have given a notice about application of VAT to Armed Forces' canteens. The entire Armed Forces are concerned about it. I am quite surprised that it is not considered an important matter. I humbly submit that … (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have never said that this is not an important matter. Do you think that all the matters, which were called, are not important?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI : I am not saying that. … (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfortunate, Maj. Gen. Khanduri.

… (*Interruptions*)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI : What I am also saying is that it is very unfortunate that so far as VAT is concerned, 45 lakh families are affected. … (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: In the meeting, we decided that at one o'clock, discussion on Agriculture will start. You were in that meeting. We are bound by the decision that at one o'clock, we will start discussion on Agriculture. I have called Shri Kailash Joshi.

… (*Interruptions*)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI : It is very sad. I feel sorry as you do not consider it important. It concerns the Armed Forces' personnel.… (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I can only repudiate your allegation against me with all the emphasis at my command.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI : Sir, you can repudiate it, but I have not raised a single matter during 'Zero Hour' this time. You say that once a week, the chance will be given. I am not given a single chance. … (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I can only appeal to the hon. Leaders to decide how to conduct this.

… (*Interruptions*)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI : Sir, I have not spoken a single time in this Session. I am sorry that this is the state of affairs. In the normal course, you are not giving me time. I represent the Armed Forces also here. … (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kailash Joshi, will you please speak?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI : It is very regrettable that I have to say like this. … (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Can anything be said against the Chair these days? I can only say that I strongly repudiate your insinuations.

… (*Interruptions*)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI : You may repudiate, but the fact is that people are concerned. … (*Interruptions*) Sir, are you repudiating them? Are the Armed Forces not concerned about VAT?

MR. SPEAKER: Of course, they are concerned. Everybody is concerned of many issues, but you are compelling me to only your matter. Your only plea is that I am against the Armed Forces.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI : Sir, I am not. … (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is such a serious charge against the Speaker.

Is this the behaviour of a senior Member of the Parliament of India?

… (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE): Sir, we are making a request to you to allow us to speak. … (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already called Shri Kailash Joshi to speak. This decision was taken in the Business Advisory Committee, and we are all party to it. I have already called Shri Kailash Joshi to speak on this issue.

… (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, we are making a request that we should be allowed to speak. … (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kailash Joshi, will you start speaking?

श्री कैलाश जोशी (मध्य प्रदेश) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं विषय को उठाने के लिए आपका धन्यवाद करता हूं। मैं आपको बधाई देता हूं कि आपने मुझे बोलने का अवसर दिया। मैं आपको धन्यवाद देता हूं।

महोदय, मैं राष्ट्रीय कृषि नीति के संबंध में बोलने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूं। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि 9 फरवरी को मैंने शून्यकाल में इस विषय को उठाया था। उस समय मैंने कहा था कि हमारे देश में उन्नत कृषि की आवश्यकता है। बाद में मैंने देखा कि कुछ लोग...(व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: Please, no whispering in the House. If you want to discuss anything amongst yourselves, then please go outside.

श्री कैलाश जोशी : मैंने 19 फरवरी को शून्यकाल में इस विषय को उठाया था। इसके बाद एक-दो बार और मैंने इस विषय को उठाया। इसके बाद भी इस संबंध में कई बार मैंने कहा। परन्तु आज तक इस संबंध में कोई नीति नहीं बनाई गई। मैं 39 एक आंकड़ा देता हूं। उसके बाद उन्होंने कहा था :

> "With about two thirds of the population dependent on agriculture, and the sector producing only 21 per cent of GDP in 2003-04, it is imperative that we address the problems of our

farmers with a sense of urgency."

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

13.11 hrs.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker *in the Chair*]

[illegible]

[illegible] "Further, the public sector banks would be asked to increase the number of borrowers by another 50 lakhs." [illegible]

[illegible]

ह+। क्रक्रह्ह एब्स्क्र ख्स्क्रज्क्रक्क ष्क्रर भ्क न्क्रहक्□ क्रक्र ग्क्रइह ह+ ज्क्रक्क उन्क्रक्रक्र दद्मख्क्रक्क रःक्र ष्क्रर ह्मरह क्र भ्क्राक्रज्क्रक्क क्रक्र क्रक्र क्र क्रारक्रक्र।

उप्क्रक्ष्यक्र ह्मरुक्रद्रक्र इस्क्रक्र ष्क्रक्रक्षर स्क्र रक्रज्क्रक्र स्क्ररक्रक्षर न्क्र रुक्टह्मक्रक्र फ्क्रारक्रक्र ब्क्रक्र ह्मक्र स्क्रख्क्रन्क्रक्क क्रक्र ष्क्रर भ्क क्रज्क्रक्रक्र थक्र। क्रज्क्रक्र ह्मरुक्रक्क ज्क्रक्र क्र०भ्क्रक्ष्णक्र ह्म ष्क्रठ्ठ 11 ष्क्रर भ्क्रक्र इस्क्रक्रक्र उभ्क्रब्ज्क्र क्रज्क्रक्रक्र ग्क्रइक्र ह+।

"The National Agriculture Insurance Scheme has been in operation since Rabi 1999-2000. I have received the recommendations made by the Joint Group constituted by the Ministry of Agriculture to suggest and improve farmer-friendly crop insurance schemes. Further consultation with all the stakeholders will be required. I, therefore, propose to continue the NAIS in its present form in Kharif and Rabi 2005-06."

इस्क्र क्रह्मह ओर्क्रक्रक्र ह्मष्टक्रक्र क्रक्र फ्क्रस्क्रक्र ब्क्रक्रक्रहद ह्मक्र ग्क्रइह। इस्क्र स्क्रदन्क्र ह्म ओक्रब्क्र स्क्रद्स्क्रक्र न्क्र उस्क्रक्रक्र उभ्क्रब्ज्क्र क्रज्क्रक्रक्र थक्र। ओक्रक्र क्रह रह० ह+ क्रज्क्र इस्क्र स्क्रक्रक्र क्रक्रज्क्रक्र फ्क्रारक्रक्र ब्क्रक्र ह्मक्र उस्क्रक्र क्रज्क्रश्क्रक्र ह्म च्क्रभ्क्रब्क्र। ह क्र उन्क्रारक्र ब्क्रक्रक्र क्रार रह० ह+। ह क्रन्क्र ग्क्रद्मक्र ब्क्रन्क्र क्रज्क्रक्र ह+, क्रह ग्क्रद्मक्र ह क्रक्रक्र क्रज्क्रष्क्रक्रट्टह दब्क्रक्र। उस्क्र०क्रब्क्रद ह्मक्र ह क्र स्क्रब्ब्क्रभ्क्र क्रज्क्र उस्क्रक्रक्र ओक्रभ्क्र क्रज्क्रक्र क्रारन्क्र च्क्रब्क्रज्क्रह्मए। ओक्रब्क्रज्क्रार इस्क्र क्रक्रज्क्र स्क्र क्रज्क्रस्क्रक्रन्क्रक्र क्रक्र क्रज्क्र भ्क्रभ्क्र फ्क्रद्दह्मक्र ह्म क्रक्रब्क्रज्क्र क्रह्मक्र ज्क्रक्र स्क्र ग्क्रइ ज्क्रक्रन्क्रक्र च्क्रब्क्रहक्र हल्ह्म।

इस्क्र फ्क्रक्षर क्रज्क्रक्र क्रह्मक्र ज्क्रक्र न्क्र ओक्रक्रक्र क्रज्क्रछभ्क्र क्रज्क्रह क्रक्र क्रक्रज्ट भ्क्रक्रण्क फ्क्रारह्भ्क क्रारक्र हद्मए एक्र क्रब्क्रक्र क्रक्रह्क थक्र क्रज्क्र रुक्टह्म क्र्क्र न्क्रल्न्क्रक्र ह्म स्क्रब्क्रक्र क्रक्रज्क्रह्मक्र ह्म ह क्रज्क्रक्र स्क्ररक्रक्षर क्रक्र एक्र फ्क्रक्र फ्क्रद्श्क्रह्मक्र ह+। रुक्टह्मक्र्क्र स्क्रब्क्रक्र क्रक्रज्क्रह्मक्र ह्म क्रक्रक्र ह्मन्क्र भ्क्र द्मब्क्रक्र ह+। क्रज्क्रक्रक्र क्रह्मक्रक्र ज्क्रक्र न्क्र ओक्रक्रक्र क्रज्क्रट भ्क्रक्रण्क ह्म क्रज्क्रछभ्क्र क्रज्क्रह उस्क्रक्रक्र उभ्क्रब्ज्क्र क्रज्क्रक्रज्क्रक्र थक्र ओक्र+र उस्क्र ह्म उस्क्र०स्क्रक्रक्र क्रज्क्रन्दद्म क्रक्रक्रक्रए थक्र। फ्क्रारन्द्म उस्क्र०क्रब्क्रद इस्क्र स्क्ररक्रक्षर न्क्र उस्क्रक्रक्र फ्क्रद्द□स्क्रक्र -'स्क्रह्श्क्रन्क्रक्र फ्क्राक्रज्क्रह्श्क्रक्रभ्क्र ग्क्रठ्ब्क्रह्मक्र स्क्ररक्रक्षर क्रक्र रुक्टह्मक्र्क्र न्क्रल्न्क्रक्र ह्म स्क्रब्क्रक्र क्रक्रज्क्रह्मक्र क्र' - फ्क्रक्रक्रक्रज्क्रक्र क्रक्र। ज्क्रक्र ह क्र उस्क्र क्रक्रज्क्रह्मक्र ह्म क्रक्रक्र दब्क्रक्र ह+ त्क्रह्म उस्क्र ह्म छः क्रज्क्रक्रन्दद्म ह+। क्रज्क्रस्क्रक्र ह्म स्क्र छः क्रज्क्रक्रन्दद्म ह+ फ्क्रह्मक्र क्रज्क्रक्रन्दद्म ह+ ज्क्र स्क्रक्रक्र क्रज्क्रक्रन्दद्म ह+ ओक्र+र उन्क्र ह्म भ्क्र एक्र-दल्स्क्रार० ह्म ओक्रह्मज्क्रब्क्रज्क्रारक्रक्र ह+। उन्क्र ह्म क्रक्रहक्□ ष्क्रर ख्क्र उभ्क्रब्ज्क्र न्क्रहक्□ ह+ क्रज्क्रक्र ग्क्रारक्रब्क्रक्र स्क्र क्रक्रप्क क्रारन्क्र क्र०क्र०क्रज्क्रए, ग्क्रारक्रब्क्रक्र क्रज्क्र क्रट्टक्रन्क्र क्र०क्र०क्रज्क्रए ख्क्र स्क्ररक्रक्षर क्रक्र+न्क्र स्क्र क्रद ह्म उठ्क्रन्क्र क्रक्रक्रभ्क्र ह+, क्रज्क्रारक्रक्रन्क्रक्र क्रक्र द्दश्क्र स्क्रद्मब्क्रज्क्रारन्क्र क्र०क्र०क्रज्क्रए क्रज्क्रक्र क्रारन्क्र क्रज्क्रभ्क्रक्र ह+। ओक्रक्र इस्क्र स्क्ररक्रक्षर क्रक्र ख्क्र ह्म□स्थक्रज्क्रक्र ह+। इस्क्रक्रज्क्रए ह्मन्क्र क्रज्क्रह्मक्रद्दन्क्र क्रज्क्रारक्र क्रज्क्रक्र इस्क्र क्रब्क्रट ह्म न्क्रज्क्रक्र-न्क्रक्रक्र क्रक्रछ न्क्रह्म□ ह+। ह क्रज्क्रारक्र क्रज्क्रक्रज्क्र ह्मरुक्रक्र ज्क्रक्र स्क्र ओक्रक्रक्रक्र ह+ क्रज्क्रक्र क्र इस्क्र क्रज्क्रश्क्रक्र ह्म ग्क्रह्मभ्क्रक्रारक्र स्क्र क्रज्क्रक्रक्रज्क्रार क्रारब्क्र ओक्र+र क्रज्क्रारक्रक्रन्क्रक्र क्रक्र द्दश्क्रार० ह्म ज्क्रक्र दद्मदह्श्क्रक्र ह्मक्र रहक्र ह+, उस्क्र क्रज्क्रद्दश्क्रक्र ह्म फ्क्रद्मन्क्रक्रह्मक्रक्रक्रार क्रारक्र हद्मए इस्क्र क्रब्क्रट ह्म क्रक्रछ एब्क्र स्क्रह्श्क्रक्रभ्क्रक्र भ्क्रक्रण्क्रह्मक्र, क्रक्रछ न्क्रइह स्क्रक्रज्क्रक्रक्रण्क्रह्म ष्क्रर क्रज्क्रह्मभ्क्र क्रारब्क्र क्रज्क्रारक्रश्क्रक्र क्रज्क्रारक्रक्रन्क्रक्र क्रक्र द्दश्क्र क्रक्र स्क्रद्मब्क्रज्क्रारक्र ज्क्रक्र स्क्रक्रह०।

इन्हक्□ श्क्रब्दक्र क्र०स्क्रक्रक्र ह्म ओक्रक्रक्रक्र ब्क्रक्रक्र स्क्र क्रक्रप्क क्रारक्रक्र हल्ह्म।

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI (BAPATLA): Sir, I rise to participate in the discussion today with regards the Demands for Grants in respect of Agriculture Ministry for the year 2005-06. I am aware of the time constraint and, therefore, I would restrict myself to issues relating to agriculture and the problems related to it.

We are all very well aware that under the past NDA regime, there has been a drastic reduction in the annual plan outlay for agriculture, irrigation, and the rural sector by about 36 per cent. Under the UPA Government, there has been a large hike of Rs.1,625 crore to agriculture and its allied activities in Budget 2005-06. Other than focussed attention on credit flows, expansion of irrigation facilities and also diversification, there has been emphasis on supportive activities like agricultural marketing and also value addition to farm produce through agro-processing.

For the year 2005-06, the Central plan outlay for agriculture is around Rs.6,425 crore as against the allocation of about Rs.4,799 crore for the past year, which is 2004-05, which is almost an increase of about 35 per cent. The Finance Minister, through this Budget, has rightly held the olive branch to the rural sector, the negligence of which, as we all know, has led to the rout of the NDA Government.

To achieve good agricultural growth it is very imperative, and one of the most basic objectives in agriculture should be to step up agricultural growth by about four per cent if we need to achieve a sustained growth of eight per cent. Secondly, focus should be on diversification. This is so because we need to promote the growth of our non-farming rural sector. Other than this, we need to facilitate the shift of labour force from agriculture to non-agricultural areas like agro-processing. Thirdly, we need to also publicise and popularise cost-reducing technologies in agriculture to make agriculture very competitive because we know that is one of the major problems that we are having today.

Last but not least, degradation of natural resources like soil and water through extensive use of chemicals should be reversed. Therefore, organic manure and organic farming should be publicised and should be popularised. However, last year our agrarian sector has recorded a very marginal growth of 1.1 per cent. To even think of achieving a GDP growth of eight per cent or to even dream of poverty alleviation is a very distant dream.

In 2005-06 Budget, allocation to agriculture has been linked with reforms with the emphasis on diversification, creation of market with standards and also striding towards creating employment for about one crore people by assuring irrigation to about one crore hectares of land in the coming five years. Our farmers, as we all know, have continued or remained slaves to the monsoon mandate. This year, our country has recorded a deficit rainfall of 13 per cent and the farmers have faced almost four-five years of continuous drought. This has disheartened our farming community thoroughly. Nearly 40 per cent of our irrigation potential remain to be exploited. Many of our irrigation projects at various stages are in the pipeline. This is due to the decline of public investment and thin

spread of resources over all these various projects. Public investment in agriculture has come down drastically from 33 per cent - 33 per cent in 1994 to about 24 per cent in 2003. This has not only widened the chasm between the rich and poor but also widened the difference between the urban poor and the rural poor.

Now, Sir, I agree that the Central role in agriculture is very limited because it is a State subject, definitely, the Centre can push the State leaders to take concrete steps to avert future battles. We are all very well aware that the shadows of these water battles are looming large over our State.

The Budget target at irrigating three million hectares of land through micro irrigation under drip and sprinkler irrigation by the year 2007. However, this seems to be a Herculean task because only Rs.400 crore have been allocated to it as against the standing demand of Rs.10,500 crore. I think, this should be given a thought because water management - we need to use water very sparingly - has become a major problem for us. In view of the depleting water resources and consecutive years of adverse weather conditions, it is imperative that we turn our attention to crop diversification and rightly, Sir, there has been an emphasis on the horticultural mission in the Budget. However, allocation towards this is a meagre Rs.650 crore as against a projection by the Agriculture Ministry of about Rs.2,015 crore. But, however, to expect the farmers to diversify immediately is a farfetched dream and to wean away from, say, paddy cultivation or for that matter, any conventional cultivation is a Herculean task. I mean, in view of these sentiments, and also the weather conditions and the depleting water resources, because of which the underground water, the salinity content and the fluorine content is also increasing, there is every necessity to accord research and education in agriculture a top priority.

Sir, we all know, India is endowed with one of the best agricultural research systems when compared to the other developing countries of the world. However, a great deal of restructuring needs to go into this to ensure efficient functioning of this system. Sir, the existing outlay for research and education in agriculture has stagnated at around 0.3 per cent of our agricultural GDP and this needs to go up to at least five per cent if we have to see a good agricultural growth. There is also a necessity to shift away from individual crop research and concentrate on crop and crop patterns in dry land areas, hill areas, tribal areas and other marginal areas. Our country also has got great agro climatic zones. Therefore, our research needs to be location-specific. However, the budgetary allocation towards agricultural research has been a paltry Rs.50 crore. I think that this needs to be hiked. Much of our existing farm research in education suffers from fatigue and needs to be revitalised. Now, delivery of this research outcome to the poor needs to be given top priority. Parliamentary Standing Committee has rightly recommended for about Rs.1,000 crore towards this. This definitely needs to be considered.

Here, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to the numerous Krishi Vigyan Kendras that are existing in our country. They have been liberally funded by the Indian Council for Agriculture Research (ICAR) and they have been further supported by Rs.1,000 crore aid from World Bank towards Natural Agricultural Technology Project. So, instead of only creating knowledge centres in every village with the expense of about Rs.100 crore, these *Krishi Vigyan Kendras (*KVKs) could be strengthened by installing modern communication facilities and by also increasing the manpower by which we can ensure that they would serve the rural poor. We also have 35 agricultural universities in our country and numerous research institutions which are headed by the Centre and the States and on top of it we have our ICAR. The Government should concentrate on a very enabling atmosphere in these institutes. The Budget for the food subsidy which also deals with storage, handling and transportation, is marginally up by about 1.6 per cent, that is, Rs.26,200 crore as against Rs.25,800 crore last year. Now, the annual rate of population increase is 1.8 per cent and increase in the food production is a little less than 1.5 per cent. It means that our population is overtaking our food production. This has remained a scare to deal with in our country. This definitely needs to be considered and hiked.

Now, the concern has been expressed over and over again over the shortage of pulses and oilseeds cultivation also. Now, the concentration on the output of oilseeds would give our agro processing industry a good push. It would also create unemployment in the rural areas. Other than that, the agro processing has rightly been identified as an employment-generating area.

Steps definitely need to be taken here to diversify into oilseeds by promoting superior seed technology. Just like the horticulture mission, it would be wonderful if the Government comes up with something like an oilseed mission whereby we could encourage our farmers into oilseeds cultivation also.

Turning to credit flow, when we look at Andhra Pradesh, the average rate of interest at which NABARD lends money to the cooperative banks is around six per cent. Now, these cooperative banks in turn lend to the DCCBs at the rate of 6.5 per cent. The DCCBs lend it to the PACS at the rate of 8.5 per cent. Now, these PACS lend it to the farmers at the rate of 11 per cent. However, the State has come forward and said that it would subsidise about six per cent if the farmers pay back their dues in time. However, we have been faced with consecutive years of drought and it has been very difficult for the farmers to do this. They are still stuck with 11 per cent. Unless the NABARD reduces their rate of interest or adequate subsidy is provided by the Government and unless the Government can

bear a part of this, it would be very difficult for the State Government to continue with the scheme. Similarly, due to continuous drought for the last five years, the cooperative sector was unable to lend loans to the farmers in an appreciable manner. We have about one crore farmers who are members of the PAC. But the cooperative banks were only able to cater to the 40 lakh farmers because they were unable to raise their own fund. A special line of credit of about Rs.300 crore should be sanctioned from the NABARD to these banks to cover the farmers who have not been covered here.

Lastly, turning to the insurance scheme, over and over again, many of us have reiterated here that insurance should come down to the village level. So, I would still urge upon the Minister to consider insurance coming down to the village level.

Finally, I would like to conclude by saying that our Finance Minister has his heart in the right place when it comes to agriculture. Our Budget has all the necessary ingredients included in it like, infrastructure, water management, crop

diversification and research also. Going beyond the domain of the Finance Ministry, it is now up to the Finance Minister to deliver it and we do assure that we have a very competent and very receptive Agriculture Minister who would listen to our woes and who will definitely deliver what is required.

SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY (CANNANORE): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, even after 50 years of Independence, agriculture is still the main occupation to millions of people in the country. The poor peasants are still socially and economically backward. They are living under starvation for many reasons. Natural calamities occur every year. Flood during the monsoon seasons cause irreparable loss to crops, but the flood relief measures are not adequate. The rural credit also becomes unavailable. Those who have taken loan from scheduled banks could not repay the installment, as a result huge arrears have occurred. Recovery proceedings including attachment of land results in bankruptcy of poor farmers.

Sir, hundreds of farmers have committed suicide due to arrears in bank loans in Kerala. Kerala Government did not furnish the correct figures. There is also drought resulting in heavy crop loss. Farmers have become bankrupt. This is another reason for committing suicide by farmers.

Sir, I would request the Central Government to take permanent remedial measures against the natural calamities on war footing. Correct weather forecast should be made periodically about natural calamities. Then, cyclone is another reason for heavy loss of crops. This can be prevented, to some extent, by correct weather forecast. Failure of monsoon can be predicted earlier so that preventive measures could be taken to save the farmers.

Sir, another issue is modernization of agriculture. Latest technologies can be employed to improve crop production. There must be strong machinery to market the products in open market. Another reason for decrease in agricultural production is the non-implementation of Land Reforms. The toiling millions of workers are denied the benefit of ownership of land they cultivate. So, the Government should take the initiative in implementing Land Reforms in the backward States.

Finally, the Central Government should take immediate steps to bring in an All India Agriculture Workers Welfare Scheme. I may just inform the House that in Kerala, there is a very good Model Welfare Scheme is going on. So, all the State and Central Governments should take immediate steps for promoting agro-industries. The Government encourage industry in many ways, but agriculture is not given any encouragement in the matter of power supplies and connected issues, which also need to be taken care of on top priority.

With these words, I conclude.

श्री रफी अहमद (फटना) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय...

… (*Interruptions*)

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : श्री रफी अहमद जैसे अनुभवी व्यक्ति को ऐसा नहीं करना चाहिए। मैं उनका सम्मान करता हूं, But this should not be considered as a precedent by anybody

श्री रफी अहमद : माननीय उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अपनी पार्टी की ओर से बजट का समर्थन करने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूं। मैं इसका स्वागत करने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूं। मैं समझता हूं, यह बजट ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के लिए है, यह बजट किसानों के लिए है और यह बजट खेतिहर मजदूरों के लिए है और मैं इसका स्वागत करता हूं।

अब्दुल्लाकुट्टी : श्री 57 मिनट बोलने के लिए मिले थे और आपने 15 मिनट में ही खत्म कर दिया, यह तो ठीक नहीं है।

हम ऐसा ही उनके साथ करेंगे। यीशु ने कहा, "जो मेरे पीछे आना चाहे वह अपने आप का इनकार करे और अपना क्रूस उठाकर मेरे पीछे हो ले।" यीशु के पीछे चलने के लिए हमें अपने आप का इनकार करना है। हमें अपने आप को यीशु के हाथों में सौंप देना है। हमें अपने आप को उसके लिए मरा हुआ समझना है। हमें अपने आप को उसके लिए बलिदान करना है। हमें अपने आप को उसके लिए अलग करना है। हमें अपने आप को उसके लिए पवित्र करना है। हमें अपने आप को उसके लिए समर्पित करना है। हमें अपने आप को उसके लिए दास बनाना है। हमें अपने आप को उसके लिए गुलाम बनाना है। हमें अपने आप को उसके लिए त्याग देना है। हमें अपने आप को उसके लिए छोड़ देना है। हमें अपने आप को उसके लिए खो देना है। हमें अपने आप को उसके लिए नष्ट कर देना है। हमें अपने आप को उसके लिए मिटा देना है। हमें अपने आप को उसके लिए समाप्त कर देना है। हमें अपने आप को उसके लिए खत्म कर देना है। हमें अपने आप को उसके लिए बर्बाद कर देना है। हमें अपने आप को उसके लिए तबाह कर देना है। हमें अपने आप को उसके लिए ध्वस्त कर देना है। हमें अपने आप को उसके लिए विनष्ट कर देना है। हमें अपने आप को उसके लिए विलुप्त कर देना है। हमें अपने आप को उसके लिए लुप्त कर देना है। हमें अपने आप को उसके लिए गायब कर देना है। हमें अपने आप को उसके लिए अदृश्य कर देना है। हमें अपने आप को उसके लिए अगोचर कर देना है। हमें अपने आप को उसके लिए अप्रकट कर देना है। हमें अपने आप को उसके लिए गुप्त कर देना है। हमें अपने आप को उसके लिए छिपा देना है। हमें अपने आप को उसके लिए ढक देना है। हमें अपने आप को उसके लिए आवृत कर देना है। हमें अपने आप को उसके लिए परदे में कर देना है। हमें अपने आप को उसके लिए ओझल कर देना है। हमें अपने आप को उसके लिए अदृश्य कर देना है। हमें अपने आप को उसके लिए अगोचर कर देना है। हमें अपने आप को उसके लिए अप्रकट कर देना है। हमें अपने आप को उसके लिए गुप्त कर देना है। हमें अपने आप को उसके लिए छिपा देना है। हमें अपने आप को उसके लिए ढक देना है। हमें अपने आप को उसके लिए आवृत कर देना है। हमें अपने आप को उसके लिए परदे में कर देना है। हमें अपने आप को उसके लिए ओझल कर देना है।

हम यीशु के लिए अपने आप को इनकार करते हैं। यीशु ने कहा, "जो अपने प्राण को बचाएगा वह उसे खोएगा, और जो मेरे लिए अपने प्राण को खोएगा वह उसे पाएगा।" हम अपने प्राण को खोते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को त्यागते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को छोड़ते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को नष्ट करते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को मिटाते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को समाप्त करते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को खत्म करते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को बर्बाद करते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को तबाह करते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को ध्वस्त करते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को विनष्ट करते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को विलुप्त करते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को लुप्त करते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को गायब करते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को अदृश्य करते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को अगोचर करते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को अप्रकट करते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को गुप्त करते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को छिपाते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को ढकते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को आवृत करते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को परदे में करते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को ओझल करते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को अदृश्य करते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को अगोचर करते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को अप्रकट करते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को गुप्त करते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को छिपाते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को ढकते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को आवृत करते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को परदे में करते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को ओझल करते हैं।

यीशु ने कहा, "जो अपने प्राण को बचाएगा वह उसे खोएगा, और जो मेरे लिए अपने प्राण को खोएगा वह उसे पाएगा।" हम अपने प्राण को खोते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को त्यागते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को छोड़ते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को नष्ट करते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को मिटाते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को समाप्त करते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को खत्म करते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को बर्बाद करते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को तबाह करते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को ध्वस्त करते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को विनष्ट करते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को विलुप्त करते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को लुप्त करते हैं। हम अपने प्राण को गायब

concerned in the FCI. In my third meeting with him last year, the present Chairman of the FCI told me that our own technicians have got very nice solution for the preservation of the food grains. But he said that our officers will mislead you. I thought that he was making fun of me. But after two and a half years I realised that the inventions of our own scientists are being neglected by the Ministry on only one ground -- Who will invest? Earlier I read out the different investments that have been proposed by the Finance Minister for increasing the productivity of food grains. The question was put to the scientists as to who will invest for preservation of food grains. The FCI officer says that the present rules do not allow them to make any investment for preservation of food grains. We, the elected Members, who are sitting in this august House are bound to make rules and regulations, or change the rules if the present rules do not permit it. I am sorry to say that even a learned Minister like Shri Sharad Pawar obeys the orders of bureaucrats. I was expecting something very high from him. I thought he would take fresh initiatives for promoting the preservation system which has been developed by our own scientists.

Recently you visited China. We have seen that in China, methyl bromade balloons are crushed on the lands in order to prevent the produce from infection. I do not understand why we cannot have the process which has been developed by our own scientists. Scientists cannot invest. They do not have money with them. When I asked about this, I was given a different proposal that I could go to NABARD or this company or that company and ask them to invest. We should sincerely try to preserve our food grains, because of which we are incurring a loss of Rs. 70,000 crore. Unfortunately, the Ministry is not serious about it. Out of the total investment, the investment for irrigation is said to be Rs. 4,800 crore. I wrote a letter to the Minister concerned asking for an information regarding how many power projects and irrigation projects are pending because of non-issuance of NoC by the concerned Ministry, that is the Ministry of Environment and Forests. To my surprise, I have received a letter from the Minister saying that he is getting it examined. I do not know what is there to examine.

How many irrigation projects are lying with the Department for want of NOC? You are providing crores of rupees. The Finance Minister and the Agriculture Minister feel that irrigation projects should be taken up very fast. At that time also I had suggested that unless and until you change your present Forest Act, the present plan of investment for irrigation projects will not be fulfilled properly. May I request the Agriculture Minister that out of this Rs.4,800 crore, which has been provided for accelerated irrigation projects, if he can divert a little bit, say, some thousand crores of rupees for the machinery that has been developed, or the technique which has been developed by our two IIT engineers, for preservation of food grains, I shall be thankful to him?

Secondly, Sir, Mr. B.G. Shirke from Maharashtra is an expert in the construction of silos. He is getting orders from foreign countries. He submitted a proposal to the concerned Ministry three years back. He suggested that instead of constructing huge stockage or godowns, we must have small silos at Taluka levels. When Mr. Gokhale was the Chairman of FCI, a plan was prepared for the construction of 2,000 small silos in different areas, which will reduce the transportation cost, and also the delivery of the product or the goods will be more easier. I feel that Mr. Shirke, who is an expert, is constructing silos in other countries, but, in our own nation, his technology, his knowledge is totally neglected. If you can go and see the present situation of FCI godowns, Sir, I really feel that you would realize the importance of construction of small silos. This will save crore of rupees in the transportation cost and leakages in transportation.

Sir, I was going through the Standing Committee's Reports on Food Processing also. I would like to ask how much vegetables and fruits are produced, how much export are we doing and what infrastructure are we going to develop for protecting the vegetables and fruits? In this connection, one article is also there on dairy development. None of the Members of the Standing Committee has asked the concerned Department why our milk and milk products are not getting export orders. The only reason is that the level of bacteria in the raw milk of our country is too high. In India, one litre of milk contains three crores bacteria. In foreign countries, the level is 1:100.

Again, one scientist from our own country developed one chemical. By using that chemical, the milk will remain as it is for 12 hours in the room temperature and 90 per cent bacteria will be killed from the raw milk. The same scientist also visited all the concerned Ministers and Secretaries. His suggestion was that if the Government can force upon these dairies that they should purchase this material, it will increase the standard of their milk. Then, we can increase our export also. But, again, the same experience has been felt here. The scientists of our country are neglected, but, if anybody comes from foreign countries, like Israel, China or USA, then we feel more happy that we have the imported technology. When our own scientists sincerely want to develop quality product, my experience or their experience is totally neglected. So, may I request the Minister concerned sitting here that unless and until they improve the quality of raw milk, they will not be able to export any food products made from milk?

We always say that ours is a number one country in the world producing milk. But, as far as quality of food grains and milk is concerned, we are not at all cautious about producing quality products. I am insisting on the hon. Minister, rather requesting him, to do something in this regard. The point is that these two scientists are tired of meeting the officers.

I am sorry to quote here one incident. One of the retired Secretaries just asked me this question: Have those scientists applied grease to the hands of the people concerned? I do not understand the phrase. The question is this. Applying grease to whom? The scientists are technical persons. They do not know the system how to get an approval. It is only for that reason - the two scientists are not able to grease or oil the palms of the officials concerned – that their technology is not accepted. May I request the hon. Minister Shri Sharad Pawar to look into this matter very seriously? He should not only think about increasing the productivity but also think about producing qualitative agricultural and horticultural products in our country.

With these words, I conclude.

MR.DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Next, Shri Annasaheb M.K. Patil to speak.

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*Not Recorded.

14.23 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET-2005-06-DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

Ministry of Agriculture- contd.

श्री अन्नासाहेब एम. के. पाटील (इरन्दाल) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, हमारे देश में कृषि विकास दर 58.5 प्रतिशत है। इसमें 18.5 प्रतिशत कृषि विकास दर है। हमारे देश में 77 प्रतिशत कृषि इस पर आधारित है। एक तिहाई जनसंख्या गरीबी रेखा से नीचे है। उसका टारगेट था कि 1952 में 69 प्रतिशत था और अब 69 प्रतिशत से 21 प्रतिशत पर आना है। इसका कारण है कि इस देश में अनाज और इस देश के उत्पादन का वितरण ठीक से नहीं हो रहा है। इसलिए 2600 करोड़ रुपये का अनाज सड़ गया है... (व्यवधान)

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : श्री अन्नासाहेब एम. के. पाटील से आग्रह है कि वे संक्षेप में बोलें।

श्री अन्नासाहेब एम. के. पाटील : कृषि के लिए 22 करोड़ रुपये का अनाज सड़ गया है। पहले के मुकाबले में कुछ भाग उत्पादन में उत्तम उत्पादन हुआ। उस हिसाब से 225 करोड़ रुपये का इस 6 करोड़ रुपये का अनाज सड़ गया है। एक तरफ हम कह रहे हैं+? एक तरफ इसका हम कह रहे हैं+ कि हमारे देश के किसानों इसलिए उनके पास नहीं है। यह कहा जाता है कि हमारे पास नहीं है, इसलिए उनके पास नहीं है। हर एक परिवार में कम से कम 100 करोड़ रुपये का अनाज सड़ गया है। इसके लिए उत्तर-पूर्वी राज्यों में 180 करोड़ रुपये का अनाज सड़ गया है। मैं+ कहना चाहता हूं कि इसके लिए

[illegible]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): That is not correct. That is a separate fund.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

SHRI SACHIN PILOT (DAUSA): Thank you Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir. I stand today in support of the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture for the year 2005-06.

Sir, before me a, lot of speakers have dwelt upon a lot of issues relating to the Department. I want to emphasise that the present Government's intention and the way forward is less on allocation and less on allotment but more on implementation, more on follow-through, more on transparency and more on accountability.

In the previous year -- last nine months or so -- the hon. Prime Minister, the hon. Finance Minister and the hon. Agriculture Minister have many a time brought this forward that whatever policy we make, whatever framework we develop, whatever money we allocate, whatever budgetary allocation we provide for the Department, that money should be focused and should reach the people and the places it is intended to reach.

Sir, over the last seven to ten years, every year there has been an increase in the Budget for the Ministry of Agriculture. This has become a sort of a routine. But since the UPA Government took charge last year, we have seen that in the working of the Government, in the stance of the Government, there is a commitment, there is a determination and resolve to make the life of the Indian farmer better than what it was before.

There are many reasons why farming has become a non-profitable business. In western countries, like the US, Canada and Australia, there are large land-holdings and fewer people are depending on agriculture. In this country, 60 per cent of our people depend on agriculture directly or indirectly. Land-holdings have become small; families are becoming large; and due to division of land, land- holdings are not becoming viable for agriculture.

Sir, respected Joshiji is sitting here. He, in his speech, has pointed out that the Government has not taken any initiative or new scheme or any creative step. I want to point out that there is a provision of Rs.782 crore for macro-management agriculture, Rs.350 crore for micro irrigation agriculture, Rs.869.5 crore for crop husbandry and animal husbandry, and Rs.630 crore is earmarked for the National Horticulture Mission. I have no hesitation in saying that the previous Government was not looking after for catering to the needs and aspirations of the farming community, labourers and the working class. I am proud to say that we are in the Government today because of the support of that society and it is a resolve of this Government to fulfil its promises that we made to this nation.

Sir, the Budget, which has been brought by the Agriculture Minister and the Department, has clearly outlined in which direction we are headed. It is a fact that there have been suicides in the past in this country in many States. It has become a chronic problem. But to tackle that problem, I am very happy to state that the Government has earmarked and disbursed Rs.1,08,500 crore in the form of rural credit. That is the money which is going to farmers on easy terms. But what happens in rural areas, sometimes, is that the farmer is getting trapped by small money-lenders and they charge interest up to 24 per cent or 25 per cent.

The Government has started on this path where they are increasing the net of the rural credit. We can buy a passenger vehicle or a maruti car at the interest rate of 5 or 6 per cent, but to buy a tractor, a farmer has to pay interest at the rate of 14 or 15 per cent. ऐसे ओवरऑल ग्रोथ रेट्स के दरम्यान कृषि क्षेत्र में हमें इस दर्जे का ग्रोथ रेट नहीं मिल रहा है, जो होना चाहिए, जो हमारी जरूरत है। हमारे यहां कृषि पर निर्भर लोगों की संख्या 60 प्रतिशत है, उस हिसाब से हमारी ग्रोथ नहीं है। हमारे यहां एवरेज होल्डिंग्स बहुत छोटी होती जा रही हैं। परिवार बड़े होते जा रहे हैं और जमीन के बंटवारे के कारण होल्डिंग्स छोटी होती जा रही हैं। इसलिए कृषि लाभकारी नहीं रह गई है। आज हमारे सम्मानित जोशी जी यहां बैठे हैं। उन्होंने अपने भाषण में कहा कि सरकार ने कोई नई पहल नहीं की है। मैं उनको बताना चाहता हूं कि मैक्रो मैनेजमेंट एग्रीकल्चर के लिए 782 करोड़ रुपये, माइक्रो इरिगेशन एग्रीकल्चर के लिए 350 करोड़ रुपये, क्रॉप हसबेंडरी और एनिमल हसबेंडरी के लिए 869.5 करोड़ रुपये और नेशनल हॉर्टिकल्चर मिशन के लिए 630 करोड़ रुपये का प्रावधान किया गया है। मैं बिना किसी हिचकिचाहट के कह सकता हूं कि पिछली सरकार किसानों, मजदूरों और कामगार वर्ग की जरूरतों और आकांक्षाओं को पूरा करने के लिए कुछ नहीं कर रही थी। मुझे गर्व है कि हम आज सरकार में हैं तो समाज के सहयोग के कारण और यह सरकार का संकल्प है कि हम इस देश से किए गए अपने वादों को पूरा करें।

सर, बजट, जो कृषि मंत्री और विभाग द्वारा लाया गया है, उसमें स्पष्ट रूप से रेखांकित किया गया है कि हम किस दिशा में आगे बढ़ रहे हैं। यह एक तथ्य है कि अतीत में इस देश के कई राज्यों में आत्महत्याएं हुई हैं। यह एक पुरानी समस्या बन गई है। लेकिन इस समस्या से निपटने के लिए मैं बहुत खुश होकर कहना चाहता हूं कि सरकार ने ग्रामीण ऋण के रूप में 1,08,500 करोड़ रुपये का आवंटन किया है। यह वह धन है जो किसानों को आसान शर्तों पर दिया जाएगा। लेकिन ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में कभी-कभी क्या होता है कि किसान छोटे साहूकारों के चंगुल में फंस जाते हैं और वे 24 या 25 प्रतिशत ब्याज वसूलते हैं।

The Government has started on this path where they are increasing the net of the rural credit. We can buy a passenger vehicle or a maruti car at the interest rate of 5 or 6 per cent, but to buy a tractor, a farmer has to pay interest at the rate of 14 or 15 per cent. सरकार ने इस दिशा में कदम उठाए हैं। सरकार ग्रामीण ऋण के दायरे को बढ़ा रही है। हम 5 या 6 प्रतिशत ब्याज दर पर एक यात्री वाहन या मारुति कार खरीद सकते हैं, लेकिन एक किसान को ट्रैक्टर खरीदने के लिए 14 या 15 प्रतिशत ब्याज दर पर ब्याज चुकाना पड़ता है। सिंचाई के क्षेत्र में कुल सार्वजनिक निवेश का 90 प्रतिशत बड़ी और मध्यम सिंचाई योजनाओं में है। निजी क्षेत्र केवल लघु सिंचाई जैसे ट्यूबवेल या हैंड पंप या बोरवेल में निवेश कर रहा है, जो बहुत कुशल निवेश नहीं है। मैं माननीय मंत्री से अनुरोध करूंगा कि वे सिंचाई और खाद्य प्रसंस्करण के क्षेत्र में अधिक निजी निवेश आकर्षित करें। आज हम अपने खाद्य उत्पादन का केवल 2 प्रतिशत प्रसंस्करण कर रहे हैं। इसे बढ़ाकर 10 प्रतिशत करने के लिए हमें 1,40,000 करोड़ रुपये के निवेश की आवश्यकता होगी।

यह दरअसल एक कम्प्रिहेंसिव दस्तावेज है। अगर हम इसे पूरी तरह से लागू कर पाते हैं तो हम इस देश के किसानों की तकदीर बदल सकते हैं। अगर ऐसा हो जाता है तो हम एक ग्रीन रिवोल्यूशन ला सकते हैं और अगर ऐसा हो जाता है तो हम इस देश के किसानों की तकदीर बदल सकते हैं।

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90 per cent of all public investment in irrigation is in the major and medium irrigation schemes. The private sector is only investing in minor irrigation such as tubewells or hand pumps or borewells, which is not a very efficient form of investment. I would request the hon. Minister to solicit more private investments in the areas of irrigation and also in food processing. Today, we are only processing 2 per cent of our food produce. To raise this to 10 per cent we will require an estimated investment of Rs.1,40,000 crore.

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I can also say with all the authority at my command that this Party and this Government are fully committed in helping the farming community not just of a particular State but the entire nation, it could be in fishery, in horticulture, in sheep rearing, in cow-breeding and in agriculture. The Government has invested and earmarked money to make policies for crop diversification, for food processing and for investing more money in research so that we can develop our farming techniques and also the implements that go into farming. It is important that we take a holistic view. I am very happy to state that the Government is very realistically approaching this problem. I think, all of us should rise above all our ideological or political differences that we may have inside the House. The farming community today needs the help of every single Member of Parliament. So, I would request everyone to support the Government in its endeavour to really strengthen the farming community. This is the need of the hour. I can safely assure you that the Government is very practical and the Government is very thoughtful about all the needs and aspirations of the farming community.

I can assure you that in the four or five years

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Sir, the minimum support price is neither remunerative nor supportive. So far as paddy is concerned, this year it has been increased only by Rs.10. While the inflation rate has gone above 6 per cent to 7 per cent, the minimum support price has gone up only by 1.8 per cent. It is not more than that. This is neither remunerative nor supportive. Farmers do not mean only farm owners. Most of the farmers in our country are small and marginal farmers. They form at least 65 per cent of the population of the farmers community. Most of them are forced to go to the market for distress sale. There is no concrete proposal for arresting distress sale and for giving remunerative price to the poor marginal farmers.

Sir, the micro irrigation does not help paddy and wheat crops. I have already mentioned it. Even then food security is in problem. Although there is a huge stock in our granary, yet a large section of our people is hungry. This has already come out in a recently released India Development Report, which spells out the state of food insecurity of the poor. This is a very paltry figure.

The per capita availability of cereals has come down a full 20 per cent from 1999 to 2003; pulses availability has come down from 36.5 grams to 28.2 grams in the same period. As of now, 47 per cent children of India are malnourished, 74 per cent anaemic, 34 per cent of married women in the age group 15-49 in rural areas suffer chronic energy deficiency, 54 per cent in the same age group have no access to education and about 50 per cent pregnant women suffer from micronutrient deficiencies. So, the main concern should not be only about diversification. I am not against diversification but what would be the fate of the poor farmers who are engaged in producing principal crops like paddy, wheat and cereals?

The scenario in our country is that farmers are committing suicides in different parts of our country. They are suffering because they have fallen into debt trap. What is the concrete proposal of the Government? They are not only getting institutional credit but they are also getting credit from the non-institutional financial agencies. So, is there any proposal to bring these non-institutional financial agencies to the network of the institutional financial agencies? There is no such proposal this year.

I appreciate the hon. Minister Shri Sharad Pawar in a general way. He is an experienced Minister and an experienced leader of our country. He knows the problems. But I think the problem is not in his Ministry, the problem is in the Ministry of Finance. The amount of money that is required is not being allocated by the Ministry of Finance. All the talk and rhetoric about full commitment to the farming community are not being reflected in the Budget itself. That is why I must say that it is merely rhetoric and there is many a slip between the cup and the lip. I hope, the hon. Minister would be bold enough to solve the problems and I am hopeful that the UPA Government, which has come out with a commitment to the farming community would take necessary steps for the betterment of the farmers and also the agriculture sector.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (TRIPURA-WEST): * Sir, I support the Budget on Agriculture for the year 2005-06. Our party, CPI (M) is lending support to the UPA Government from outside on the basis of some ‘Common Minimum Programme’.

We have been consistently demanding to follow CMP strictly where thrust has been given to uplift the economic condition of the poor peasants of our country.

The current Budget on Agriculture has reflected that policy to some extent and we hope that the Government would implement various schemes to develop agriculture sector.

Over the years, the agriculture has played a very vital role in the Indian economy and would continue to be the most crucial sector in the future also.

The need of the hour is to ensure that a very conducive atmosphere is developed to provide healthy growth of the agriculture sector.

Although agriculture is the backbone of the nation’s economy, unfortunately the contribution of agriculture to the gross domestic product has declined to as low as 22%.

Worker dependent on agriculture are still very high (about 58%).

The availability of foodgrains in terms of quantity as well as quality is erratic and uneven among different section of the society.

Besides, incidence of malnutrition, thousand of people living in rural and remote areas are not able to get two square meal a day. In fact, we have still not achieved food security in the sense.

The concept of food security adopted in ‘World Food Summit’ held in Rome in 1996 as I quote, "Food security exits

when all people, at all time, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and preferences for an active and healthy life".

*Speech was laid on the Table.

In this context, it is very important for India to initiate long-term policy measures for making our farming sector viable and sustainable.

The most visible symptoms of the agrarian rural distress among the rural poor is the drastic curtailment of their per capita food availability.

The number of farmers' suicides has reached levels unheard of since Independence.

The 'targeted public distribution system' actually led to the dismantling of the existing 'public distribution system' – which itself was inadequate.

This dismantling of the public distribution system has hit the poor, the hardest with the worst affected being the tribal areas where hunger and starvation deaths have become a regular feature.

More than 26% of our population is below poverty line.

Unemployment has become the single largest problem for the people.

This is the result of liberalisation and privatisation policies persued over the years.

Large sections of the peasantry caught in a pincer between higher input prices and lower output prices.

The withdrawal of subsidiaries on a host of inputs, the rising cost of electricity, irrigation have forced peasants to go to moneylenders to borrow at exorbitant interest rates which has resulted in increased cost of production.

The role of commercial and regional rural banks is not upto the mark for lending loans to the farmers.

In spite of all above, the Budget for 2005-06 attempted to create several favourable conditions for the development of agriculture marketing, horticulture, agriculture infrastructure, credit flow, etc. deserve commendation though not without some doubts and reservations.

The 2005-06 Budget has fixed a target of extending assured irrigation to 10 million hectares in 4 years under the Bharat Nirman Project.

This sounds almost utopian, considering that the growth of irrigation has decelerated, partly because the easily irrigable areas have been exhausted.

But more importantly because no new medium or major project has been launched since the Seventh Five Year Plan.

The Budget also talks about covering 3 million hectares under micro-irrigation system by 2007.

This, too, seems a tall order because only Rs. 400 crores has been set apart for this purpose against the estimated requirement of Rs.10,000 crore for the remaining two years of this Plan.

The Budget also talked about the need for revamping the co-operative credit infrastructure but has not proposed any concrete measure to do so.

Agriculture Research and Education has also not got much from the Budget. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture in its recent report recommended a one-time catch-up grant of Rs. 1000 crore for this network. But this has been overlooked in the Budget.

As for the proposed 'National Horticulture Mission', the funding requirement for 2005-06 has been projected by the Agriculture Ministry at Rs. 2,015 crore.

The Budget has allocated Rs. 630 crore.

Animal Husbandry being potential sector has been neglected.

India is the world leader in fruit and vegetables production and not in foodgrains such as wheat and rice or in pulses or oilseeds.

Diversification of agriculture should not be at the expense of food crops.

India's food economy should continue to be grain-centred.

The Budget should have focussed more on providing adequate nutrition to the rural poor.

We are now in the 4th year of the Tenth Plan. Experts have already expressed that the targeted growth rate of 8% could not be achieved during the Tenth Plan Period.

Growth of agriculture sector has key to our overall economic growth.

For achieving the desired growth, we have to complete the Land Reform Process throughout the country within a specific time.

Surplus land and cultivable wasteland has to be distributed to the landless.

In spite of limitation, the Agriculture Budget for 2005-06 has been framed keeping the interest of all class people in mind which is welcome.

DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI (BHUBANESWAR): *The only culture of India is agriculture. Budget for 2005 holds out an olive branch to the rural sector. The neglect of this sector was one of the reasons for the root of the political doom. The rural sector must be examined.

Budget should have focussed more on providing adequate nutrition to the rural poor.

Horticulture which received Rs. 630 crore is not a priority for the country unlike pulses and oilseeds. India is the world leader in fruit and vegetable production and not in foodgrains such as wheat and rice.

It is found to be far worse than in sub Saharan Africa where there was no Green Revolution.

India's agricultural scientists, in particular the plant breeders of rice and wheat have not able to break the yield barrier for a number of years. The soil scientist and the agronomist have failed to show vision in this direction.

Small dams, anicuts and overall watershed management are the need of the hour. The rural idiom of Mr. Chidambaram's Budget will make sense only if the funds are effectively used.

Purveying Government money to the rural areas is hardly efficient given the experiments of the last several decades. Krishi Vigyan Kendras should have modern I.C.T. facilities to cater to rural communities.

The only State in the country, Orissa, the divine State of agriculture is highly neglected by the Centre. The Central Government must pay proper attention and allot more grants to promote my Orissa State which is below poverty line. I pray the Central Government for immediate allocation of funds to save the State out of drought.

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*Speech was laid on the Table.

There should be agricultural oriented industries to promote the State. The farmers are very poor compare to other States. I draw the attention of the Central Government for immediate grants to be included in the current Budget.

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[illegible]

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*Speech was laid on the Table.

SHRI M. SHIVANNA (CHAMARAJANAGARA): *Sir, I thank you for giving me to express my views on the Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture for the year 2004-05. On behalf of my party Janata Dal(S) I support the Demands.

At the outset I wish to thank the hon. Prime Minister and UPA Chairperson Smt Soniaji for approving a large sum of Rs 13556 crore of rupees annual plan outlay to my State for 2004-05. My thanks to Shri Sharad Pawarji, a veteran revolutionary leader who is working hard for ameliorating the living conditions of farmers of our country. Similarly, Karnataka Government has also given top priority for agriculture especially this year. The annual Budgetary allocation for agriculture for 2004-05 has been increased from Rs 412 crore to Rs 840 crore. In fact the farmers deserve such encouragement because agriculture is the backbone of our economy.

Sir, Karnataka Government is facing severe drought situation for the fourth successive year. The percentage of irrigated land is very less and most farmers are dependent upon rain god. The drinking water problem is persisting in many districts including Chamarajanagar, Kolar and Belgaum. The State Government has requested the Centre to release a substantial amount to Karnataka for drought relief works. The State has asked for Rs 1147.71 crore. The Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs has informed us that Rs 49.14 crore will be released. I urge upon the Centre to increase this amount as the financial condition of Karnataka is very poor.

I consider marketing and storage as most important aspects in the field of agriculture. Due to faulty storage a substantial quantity of food grain is swallowed by rodents. Food grain becomes rotten due to heavy rain and flow of water inside the storeroom and godown. In some other cases the food grain is lost because there

*Translation of the speech originally laid on the Table in Kannada.

are no storage facilities at all. Food Corporation of India do not have sufficient number of godowns. I request the hon. Minister of Agriculture to construct sufficient number of FCI godowns in Karnataka. The price of onion, tomato and potato has gone down in the recent times. In fact during the last two to three years this condition is prevailing. Sugarcane growers and cotton growers are also on the streets as they are not getting support price for their produce. The Government of India should come forward to help the States to provide marketing facilities. For example research studies have found out that coffee cures cancer. If that is so, what steps have been taken by the Centre to boost the sale of coffee here and in the international market? Coconut growers are in great trouble in Karnataka. NUSI disease and root wilt disease have destroyed lakhs of coconut trees in Karnataka. Black headed worms and white worms have attacked coconut trees in most parts of the State. These disease-affected coconut trees have to be removed. The Centre was giving financial assistance for cutting and removal of such dead coconut trees. Now, at present the assistance from the Government of India has been stopped. The State is not in a position to pay more than Rs 25/- per coconut tree. This amount has to be enhanced at least upto Rs 200/- per tree otherwise the condition of farmers will deteriorate further. Several cotton growers in Karnataka have committed suicide after burning their cotton crops in northern Karnataka. I am eager to know from the hon. Minister the steps that his Ministry has taken to tackle such crucial situations.

Food processing industries must be set up throughout the State of Karnataka. In addition to this cold storages and chilling centres should be provided to farmers throughout the State of Karnataka. This will enable the farmers to produce ketch up, sauces, etc. Variety of juices can be produced from fruits like mangoes, oranges, grapes, sapota, etc. Hence cold storage facility is a must to the farmers and it is the responsibility of the Centre to help them in this matter.

I am keen to know about some important projects which are hanging fire till today. There is no progress regarding Kapini II stage project. An amount of Rs 120 crore was released for the Markandeya project and no one knows as to what has happened to this project. Similarly Rs 8 crore was released for Bylahengala project to provide drinking water to the poor villagers in the Kittur Rani Chennamma area. All these projects have disappeared and I hope the hon. Minister Shri Sharad Pawarji would reply to all these questions while replying to the debate.

There is a boom in the export of roses from Bangalore (Karnataka) and Hosur (Tamil Nadu). This export can

increase manifold particularly during festival season like Christmas. There is abundant production of tulip flowers in Germany. India can easily overtake Germany in the production and export of these beautiful flowers provided the Union Ministry of Agriculture provides proper encouragement to floriculture. This still will also provide a boon to Indian economy by earning the valuable foreign exchange.

There are a number of agricultural research centres in our country. Efforts are on to get hybrid variety of cows, bisons and to improve the quality and quantity of milk. This effort should go on. Tender coconut water can find a prime place in the national and international market if it is processed, preserved, packed in a scientific way. We have so many campa colas and coca colas. Why don't we have coconut cola, Sir?

With these words, Sir, I conclude my speech.

श्री ओमप्रकाश रावत (ओमप्रकाश नगर) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, महत्वपूर्ण विषय पर आधारित राष्ट्रपति के अभिभाषण पर धन्यवाद प्रस्ताव पर बोलने के लिए मैं खड़ा हुआ हूं, मुझे उसके पक्ष में बोलने का अवसर प्रदान किया, इसके लिए मैं आपका धन्यवाद करता हूं। मैं राष्ट्रपति जी के अभिभाषण का समर्थन करता हूं। मैं राष्ट्रपति जी को धन्यवाद देता हूं कि उन्होंने अपने अभिभाषण में देश की जनता के हित में अनेक महत्वपूर्ण बातें कही हैं। मैं माननीय प्रधानमंत्री जी को भी धन्यवाद देता हूं कि उन्होंने अपने वक्तव्य में देश की जनता के हित में अनेक महत्वपूर्ण बातें कही हैं। मैं माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी को भी धन्यवाद देता हूं कि उन्होंने अपने बजट भाषण में देश की जनता के हित में अनेक महत्वपूर्ण बातें कही हैं।

15.00 hrs.

यह हमारे स्वतंत्रता संग्राम का इतिहास रहा है। हमारे पूर्वजों ने देश की आजादी के लिए अनेक कुर्बानियां दी हैं। हमारे पूर्वजों ने देश की आजादी के लिए 57 वर्ष तक संघर्ष किया है। हमारे पूर्वजों ने देश की आजादी के लिए अनेक यातनाएं सही हैं। हमारे पूर्वजों ने देश की आजादी के लिए अनेक बलिदान दिए हैं। हमारे पूर्वजों ने देश की आजादी के लिए अनेक कुर्बानियां दी हैं। हमारे पूर्वजों ने देश की आजादी के लिए अनेक यातनाएं सही हैं। हमारे पूर्वजों ने देश की आजादी के लिए अनेक बलिदान दिए हैं। हमारे पूर्वजों ने देश की आजादी के लिए अनेक कुर्बानियां दी हैं। हमारे पूर्वजों ने देश की आजादी के लिए अनेक यातनाएं सही हैं। हमारे पूर्वजों ने देश की आजादी के लिए अनेक बलिदान दिए हैं।

महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी का ध्यान इस ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं कि हमारे देश में 2004-05 में कृषि उत्पादन की वृद्धि दर 7.85 प्रतिशत थी जो 2005-06 में घटकर 7 प्रतिशत हो गई है। इस प्रकार कृषि उत्पादन की वृद्धि दर में 2004-05 की तुलना में 2005-06 में 0.85 प्रतिशत की कमी आई है। इसी प्रकार औद्योगिक उत्पादन की वृद्धि दर 2003 में 8.2 प्रतिशत थी जो 2004 में 8.2 प्रतिशत से घटकर 7.5 प्रतिशत हो गई है। इसमें 0.8 प्रतिशत की कमी आई है। इसी प्रकार निर्यात वृद्धि दर में भी कमी आई है।

महोदय, हमारे देश में 90 प्रतिशत लोग असंगठित क्षेत्र में कार्य करते हैं। इनकी आय का औसत 20 रुपये प्रतिदिन है। इसी को अंग्रेजी में कहा गया है "They born in debt, they live in debt and they die in debt" अर्थात् वह कर्ज में पैदा होता है, कर्ज में जीता है और कर्ज में ही मर जाता है। यही "They born in debt, they live in debt and they die in debt" की स्थिति आज हमारे देश में है। इसमें सुधार होना चाहिए।

15.04 hrs.

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan *in the Chair*]

यह आंकड़ा वर्ष 1990 में 3.17 प्रतिशत था जो 1980 में घटकर 1.73 प्रतिशत हो गया।

90 क्र॰ दशक्र . क्र ह क्रक्रर क्र+द्धक्रक्र . क्र 1.9 क्रक्रक्रक्रक्र क्रक्र क्रक्रद्ध हद्दइह ज्ञक्रक्रक्रक्र क्रक्रक्र . क्र क्रक्रद्ध 1.73 क्रक्रक्रक्रक्र रहक्र। इस्क क्रक्रक्रर क्रक्रक्रक्र ध्रक्रक्र क्रक्र क्रक्रक्रक्रक्रक्र ज्ञक्रक्रक्रक्र क्र॰ क्रक्रक्रक्रक्र न्यक्र च्यक्र ग्यक्रक्र। ख्यह क्र□स्थक्रक्रक्र क्रड्क्र भ्यक्रक्रक्रक्र ह+।

स्क्रक्रक्रक्रक्र ज्ञक्र, 1997 स्क्र भ्यक्रर 2004 त्यक्र ह क्रक्रर दक्र क्र॰ 25 हज्यक्रर क्रक्रक्रस्क्रक्रक्र न्क्र ख्यदद्यक्रश्यक्र क्रक्र ओक्र+र एन्क.डक्र.ए. स्क्ररक्रक्रर क्र॰ क्रक्रक्रन्क त्यक्रन्क स्क्रक्रक्र . क्र ख्यह स्क्रह्यक्र 10 हज्यक्रर रहक्र। क्रक्रक्रस्क्रक्रक्र न्क्र . क्रज्यक्रल्स्क्र . क्र ख्यदद्यक्रश्यक्र क्रक्र। एन्क.डक्र.ए. क्र॰ 6 स्क्रक्रक्र क्र॰ स्क्र क्रक्र . क्र क्रक्रक्रक्र क्रक्रक्रक्रक्रक्र क्र॰ क्रक्रक्रक्र क्रक्रक्रह्र ध्यक्रक्र न्यह□ क्रक्रद्र्यक्र ग्यक्रक्र फ्यह्डप्लक्र क्रक्र एभक्रक्रक्रव्यक्रक्र क्र क्र क्रक्रक्रस्क्रक्र ग्यक्रक्र ओक्र+र दक्र स्क्रक्रक्र क्र॰ ओक्रद्दर WTO त्र॰ त्यह्त क्रक्रक्रक्रक्रक्रट्क्र र+क्र□स्टह्रक्रक्रक्र हट्क दक्र ग्यह्इह क्रक्रक्रस्क्रक्रक्र ओक्रर क्रक्रक्रक्र ध्यक्र फ्यड्क। क्रक्रक्रक्र फ्यस्क्र क्र॰ दक्र क्र फ्यक्रस्क्र हक्र ग्यक्र। इस्क्रक्र ओक्रर ख्यह हद्दओक्र क्रक्रक्रक्र क्रक्रक्रस्क्रक्रक्र क्रक्र . क्रज्यक्रल्स्क्र . क्र ख्यदद्यक्रश्यक्र क्रन्यक्र फ्यड्क।...(व्यक्रक्रक्रक्रन्क्र)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (KALAHANDI): Shri Anil Basu, can you yield to me for a minute?

SHRI ANIL BASU : Why not?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not interrupt the Member.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Sir, I just want to seek a clarification. The hon. Member has yielded. … (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can seek clarification from the hon. Minister later.

… (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Sir, I am not in the list of speakers. I just want to record my point and seek a clarification. … (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANIL BASU : We can discuss in private. … (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There can be no discussion between you two Members. Shri Anil Basu, you continue your speech.

… (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Sir, you are trying to bulldoze the proceedings. Please do not bulldoze the proceedings. … (*Interruptions*)

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (RAJGARH): Sir, the main speaker has conceded. You should allow the hon. Member to make his point.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Sir, this is a matter concerning the farmers. The hon. Member has levelled an allegation against the NDA Government. He said that they had done nothing for the farmers. Here, I want to give a clarification that the WTO was signed in 1993 by the present Leader of the House. They left the Agreement on Agriculture blank. He has left it blank. Till today your Commerce Minister has not come forward with details and he has also failed in Cancun to resolve the Agreement on Agriculture and for the developing countries to reduce their agricultural subsidies. … (*Interruptions*) You cannot squarely blame the NDA Government. … (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Bikram Keshari Deo, you are making a speech now.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Sir, let there be no cross-talking. A lot of speakers are there to speak on the subject.

SHRI ANIL BASU : Sir, on whatever harm they have done to the country, I am going to reply to each and every point. There is no problem. … (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Anil Basu, you address the Chair. Why do you address him? You need not address him. You address the Chair.

श्यक्र ओक्रक्रक्रक्र क्रह्रक्रक्र : स्क्रक्रक्रक्रक्रक्र ज्ञक्र, 1981-2001 त्यक्र क्र॰ 20 स्क्रक्रक्र क्र॰ ट्कइ क्र . क्र ख्यक्र क्रज्यदल्क्र क्रक्र स्क्रह्यक्र . क्र श्यक्र क्रक्रण्क ध्यक्रक्रक्र . क्र 22 क्रक्रक्रक्रक्रक्र क्रक्र क्रक्रक्रक्रक्र हद्दइह ज्ञक्रक्रक्रक्र क्रक्रक्रस्क्रक्रक्रक्र क्रक्र स्क्रक्यक्र . क्र 13 क्रक्रक्रक्रक्रक्र क्रक्र क्र क्रक्र ओक्रक्रइह ह+।

च्क्रक्रक्रह क्र॰ क्रल्क्र . क्रद्दह फ्यर ज्ञक्रक्र क्र॰ फ्यहभ्क . क्र दक्र . क्रहत्फ्यक्रल्स्क्रह . क्रद्दक्र क्रक्र त्यरफ्क . क्रक्रक्रक्रन्क श्यक्र श्यरद फ्यक्रक्रर ज्ञक्र क्रक्र ध्यक्रक्र ओक्रक्रक्रक्रक्रक्र क्रर्न्क्र च्यक्रहत्क्र हल्ह। ह क्रक्रर स्क्रल्क्र फ्य□श्क्र क्र क्रह्रग्क्रक्र . क्र ओक्रक्रभ्ल क्रक्र ख्यक्रक्र हक्रक्रक्र ह+। ह क्रक्रर फ्रक्रड्क्रक्रक्र . क्र 35 भ्यक्र . क्रक्रक्रट्क्रह्र टन्क ओक्रक्रभ्ल स्क्ररण्क्र ह+। ह क्र भ्यक्रक्र इस्क्रक्रक्र एक्रक्रक्रक्रक्रट्क्रह क्रर्न्क्र च्यक्रहत्क्र ह+। ओक्रद्दरण्क्रक्र श्यरद ज्ञक्र न्क्र ह क्र क्रह्रद्दन्क उत्क्रक्रह क्रक्रक्रक्रक्र उन्हक्र्क्र ह क्र . क्रह्रक्रक्रक्र . क्र दक्र च्यक्रहट क्रक्र स्क्र क्र . क्र क्रक्रक्रक्र . क्रह्यह फ्य□श्क्र क्र क्रह्रग्क्रक्र क्र॰ स्क्रक्रर ओक्रक्र . क्रक्र त्यक्र

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Member, how much time do you require to complete your speech?

SHRI ANIL BASU : I think, so long as you allow me to continue. … (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: That cannot be. You must have some time-limit.

SHRI ANIL BASU : Agriculture sector is a vast sector.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But you must have some time-limit so that others can also participate.

SHRI ANIL BASU : Sir, I have not consumed any time at all. Our party has a definite time. I have not consumed that. Other speaker has laid his speech on the Table of the House. So, I may kindly be allowed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please co-operate so that others can also participate.

Rs. 1.5 per kg - 10 per cent of FOB;

Rs. 1.5 per kg - 25 per cent of ocean freight in case of non-refer container and

Rs. 1.88 per kg - 33 per cent of ocean freight in case of refer container;

(c) Rs. 3 per kg - specific rate per kg.

They have decided it as Rs. 1.5 because Rs. 1.5 is the least of the three parameters. What is the logic for doing it? How do they decide it?

[illegible] - [illegible] 1994-95 [illegible] 174 [illegible] 142 [illegible] 2002-03 [illegible] 4.82 [illegible] 1.72 [illegible] 1.7 [illegible] 26 [illegible] 1996-97 [illegible] 19.5 [illegible] 21 [illegible] 53.5 [illegible] 57 [illegible]

[illegible] WTO [illegible] WTO [illegible] 50 [illegible] ...([illegible])